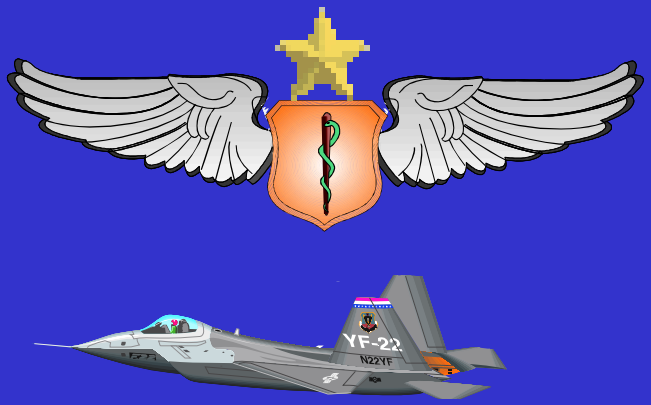
AIR FORCE MEDICAL STANDARDS



LTC PAUL A. YOUNG, MC,
SFS RAM '99

HANDOUTS?

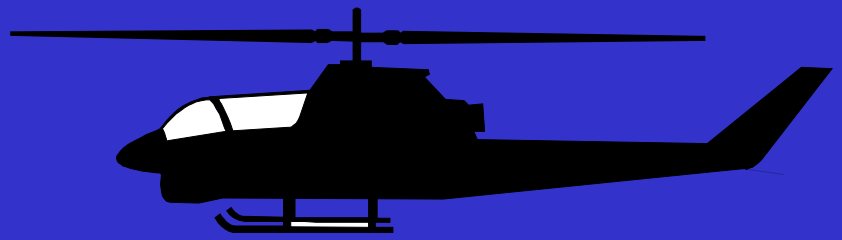
NOTE TAKING VS SLEEPING

ASKING QUESTIONS?

TEST/QUIZ

XL

AIR FORCE MEDICAL STANDARDS

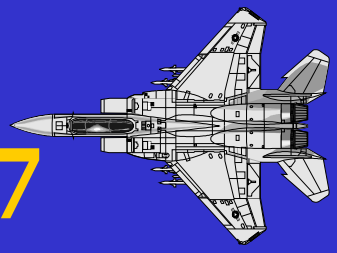


- OVERVIEW
  - BACKGROUND
  - REGULATIONS --> INSTRUCTIONS
  - REASONS
- FLYING CLASSES
- IMPORTANT AREAS
  - CH. 7; MEDICAL STANDARDS
  - ATTACHMENT 6; FLYING DUTY

AIR FORCE MEDICAL STANDARDS cont.

- **Initial Flying Certification Process**

- **Flying Classes - 7**



AIR FORCE MEDICAL STANDARDS cont.

STANDARD MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

- INITIAL
- PERIODIC
- PHA
- WAIVERS
- OTHERS

AIR FORCE MEDICAL STANDARDS cont.

- GENERAL AREAS
  - MISCELLANEOUS
- QUESTIONS

WOULD YOU WANT TO FLY IN AN AIRCRAFT THAT……..

- **had your pilot flying blind in one eye?**
- **had a pilot with active TB or asthma?**
- **had a pilot who failed a psychiatric examination**
- **had a pilot with seizures/epilepsy?**

BACKGROUND

WW I - Active pilots (“Aces”) had the aforementioned conditions

- **Heros, yet exceptions and not the rule**
  - **Ed Mannock (GBR) - astigmatism --> blind eye**
  - **Gunner (FRA) - TB**
  - **Oswald Boelcke - asthma**
  - **Frank Luke - moodiness/antisocial….**
  - **Leeche (CAN) - one leg**

BACKGROUND cont.

- **British Air Losses**
  - **4 shootdowns**
  - **4 mechanical failures**
  - **92 human factors and frailties; unfit to fly**

BACKGROUND cont.

- **US flyers and cadets at training centers**
  - **60% of fatalities due to "physical unfitness"**

- **1914 - 1917 Aviation Medical Research Board; General Theordore Lyster ("Father of Military Aviation Medicine")**
  - **Investigations on conditions which offset the efficiency of pilots**
    - **experiments and tests on fitness**
    - **ability to fly at high altitudes**

BACKGROUND cont.

- **US Medical standards became initially too strict**
  - **“Needle Test” - steadiness**
  - **“Mallet Test” - 15 sec coherence**
  - **“Nervous Shock Test” - HR, Resp, BP (French)**

BACKGROUND cont.

- **Subsequently became more uniform and condition dependent**
- **Embraced by USAF**
  - **67 stations ---> 30% DQ rate (VA accounted for 20%)**

MEDICAL STANDARDS

- **Removes doubt for qualification**
  - **Precluded acceptance for indiv. w/disease which endangered personnel, was an added expense, was time consuming, or detracted from maintaining a healthy force (more to come)**

REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

- **Established to ensure that procurement and retention of members physically and temperamentally adaptable to the conditions of "military life"**

- **Basic medical standards must be met prior to consideration for flying duty**
  - **AFI 48-123 attach. 3, Init. Appt, enlistment, and Induction**

REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS cont.

- **AFI 48 - 123; Medical Examination and Standards, 15 Nov 94 (Aerospace Medicine)**
  - ***AFPD 48-1*, 7/93; DoDD 1205.9 10/6/60; DoDD 1332.18 2/25/86; DoDD 6130.3 5/94.**
- **AFP 48-132 Waiver Guidelines**
- **FS Guide**
- **FS Checklist**
- **Mishap Investigation Book**

MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR FLYING DUTY

- **Designed to avoid compromise of….**
  - **SAFETY**
  - **MISSION COMPLETION**
  - **MEMBER'S WELL-BEING**
- **DQ - Dependent on particular medical condition involved**
- **Remember - Being in the air is different than being on the ground!!!!!**

AFI 48-123 AREAS

- **CHAPTER 7 - Basic Medical Standards**
  - **Scope & Applicability for diff. job titles**
- **7.5 - Flying Duty, Attachments 2, 3, 6***
  - **Waivers 7.51 (Ch. 8)**
  - **7.6 Misc.**
    - **Parachute duty**
    - **Marine Diving**
    - **Physiological Training**
    - **Remote/Isolated Duty**

AFI 48-123 AREAS cont.

- **CHAPTER 4 - Periodic Medical Exams**
- **CHAPTER 8 - Waivers**
  - **Duty limitations - AFF 422, Profiles, Assignment Limitation Code C**
- **ATTACHMENT 2 - Continued Military Service**
- **ATTACHMENT 4 - Ground Based Controller Duty**

AFI 48-123 AREAS CONT.

- **ATTACHMENT 6** - Flying Duty (20 pgs.)**
  - **Initial - Different Classes w/different standards**
    - **Most Stringent Section; (e.g. VA as a predictor of performance and/or future problems)**
  - **Continued - DNIF, Waivers, Profiles**

- **STANDARDS SET: ON SAFETY, MISSION COMPLETION, AND/OR MEMBER'S WELL-BEING**

FLYING CERTIFICATION

- **Flight/Missile Medicine**
  - **Performs Flying PE**
  - **Forwards Docs. For Certification**
  - **Forwards ECG to USAFSAM ECG Library**
- **DBMS**
  - ***Signs SF 88, Item #82 (be careful- not always MC)**
- **MAGCOM/SG concurrence**

FLYING CERTIFICATION cont.

- **AETC/SG**
  - **Clears Initial FC II**
  - ***FC I, IA Certification and Waiver Authority***
  - ***FC II Waivers - MAJCOM/SG***
  - **HQ USAF/SG Has ultimate Waiver Authority**
- **OTHERS: USAFSAM/AF**
  - **Temp Flight Surgeon, Flt Nurse clearance for training pending HQ USAF/SG**

FLYING CLASSES

- **I - Selection/Entry into UPT**
- **IA - Selection /Entry into UNT**
- **II - Rated Officer; All Aircraft**
  - **Pilots, Navs, FS**
- **IIA - Rated Officer; TTB (excl. FB111, B1, B2)**

FLYING CLASSES cont.

- **IIB - Rated Officer; Tanker, Transport**
- **IIC - Rated Officer; “General’s Waiver”**
  - **Aircraft Specific**
- **III - Non-Rated**
  - **Flight Nurses**
  - **Enlisted - Load Masters, Flt. Engineers, Boomers**

FLYING CLASSES cont.

OTHERS…….

- **Missile launch crew**
- **Parachute duty**
- **Space operations**
- **Air traffic controllers**

Standard Medical Examinations

- **Active Flying Status - Initial Flying --> PHA Q Yr; *Continuation of duties FC II***
- **Inactive Flyers - PHA Q Yr**
- **Active Duty Personnel - Initial Medical Exam --> PHA Q Yr**
- **Retired - PHA Q Yr, Tricare**

WAIVERS

- **ACS - recommendations**
- **AFP 48-132* (48-123 Specific guidelines)**
  - **Min. risk of sudden incapacitation**
  - **Pose min. potential for subtle performance decrement**
  - **Resolve or be stable and remain so under stresses of aviation environment**
  - **Progression/Recurrence - Signs easily detectable**
  - **Cannot require exotic tests, procedures**
  - **Must be compatible w/performance of sustained flt. in austere environments**

WAIVER AUTHORITY

AFI 48-123 Attachment 9 - category, cert./waiver authority

- **II A, B, C - HQ AFMOA/SGPA**
- **NASA**
- **AFMC/SG - Test Pilots**
- **AETC/SGP - Basic Training.**

- **ULTIMATE ---> HQ AF/SG**

FS AND THE FLYER

- **LIVE**
- **WORK, FLY**
- **PLAY/SOCIALIZE**

- **The Job Involves A Lot More Than You Think**

One Day You Could Be Working For This Guy!!!

Questions